internet hub at village post offices

1653. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide internet hubs at village post office; and

(b) the number of post offices in rural areas which have e-mail or e-post facilities and how many additional post offices would be provided with these facilities in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide internet hubs at village post offices.

(b) The Department has launched e-post service on an all India basis in January, 2004. There are 1,39,081 rural post offices in the country. Ali rural post offices can provide e-post facilities through their connected e-post transmission centres located in district towns.

Optical fibre cable in U.P.

1654. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect all sub-centres of Telecommunication Department in Uttar Pradesh with Optical Fibre Cable and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the construction work of tower being installed to provide Cellone mobile phone service in the rural areas of U.P. has been completed and if not, the reasons therefor and by when, it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All the exchanges in Uttar Pradesh are working on reliable media such as Optical Fibre Cable, Microwave and Satellite.

(b) BSNL has not specifically planned for the coverage of rural areas with Cellular Service. However, such areas that are enroute to National Highway/Important State Highway which are being covered as part of roll out plan may get incidental coverage due to coverage of Highway.

Tele-density

1655. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that almost half of the country *{i.e.* 13 out of 27 circles) has missed the telecom revolution and have a much lower tele-density than the pan-Indian average of 7.02 as on the 31st March, 2004;

(b) whether it is a fact that the telephonic penetration per 100 people in these 13 circles ranged between 1.5 and 5; and

(c) if so, the efforts Government propose to make so that the telecom revolution reaches everywhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per statistics available, 13 circles have registered a teledensity ranging between 1.5 and 5.

(c) Telecom Services, both landline and mobile, are available in all the circles. The teledensity in different regions is a function of demand. Government are working towards doubling the current teledensity levels in the next two years or so.

Reduction in the rates of Private Lease-hold International Telecommunication Lines

1-1656. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to reduce sharply the rates of Private Lease-hold International Telecommunications Lines (IPLC) with a view to making high transmission

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.